

MORTON UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

January 19, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Morton Unit School District 709 held January 19, 2021, at the Morton Education and Administration Center.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call –

President Shad Beaty called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shad Beaty, Mr. Jeff Schmidgall, Mr. Kevin Austin,
Mr. Tim Braker, Dr. David Cross, Mr. Tom Neeley. Mr. Bart Rinkenberger

Reports –

Administrative –

Freedom of Information Requests –

Dr. Hill reported there have been no Freedom of Information requests.

ELL Report –

ELL Coordinator Dayrim Sheehan gave a presentation to update Board members on the English Language Learners (ELL) program. The mission of the ELL program is to provide services to meet the linguistic and academic needs of children whose native language is not English.

- ELL services are provided for students in K-12 at all buildings including Morton Academy.
- Morton has a TPI (Transitional Program of Instruction)– students participate in the mainstream classroom and receive ELL instruction in a small group setting. Staff includes the ELL Director, ELL Coordinator, 2 ELL aides– travel between schools.
- 35 ELL students are currently enrolled– 20 in K-6; 15 in 7-12; there are 11 different languages; collaborating with 45 classroom teachers.
- Key performance indicators include:
 - ACCESS test is required by the state to monitor the growth of English language acquisition – K-12
 - MAP – scores are used to monitor student academic progress and to guide decisions about ELL services.
 - Academic performance in the classroom, during ESL instruction, communication with teachers, student grades, IEP.

- COVID Challenges include:
 - For students – technology; lack of academic support at home due to language; lack of English exposure impacts language acquisition.
 - For ELL staff – making learning accessible; working beyond work day to get students caught up; facilitating communication; quarantine.
- Program Needs:
 - The state requires that ELL students receive instruction in English language acquisition from qualified teachers – aides do not count as providing legal ESL services. Currently the majority of ELL instruction is delivered by ELL aides.
 - The state requires that all ELL students must receive services daily – currently 13 of the 35 ELL students are not receiving services daily due to lack of available staff.
 - According to the state, the district needs more ESL teachers due to the number of ELL students being above 30 – State advised district to follow Special Education model in regards to ELL services. For Special Education 20 students is the maximum per teacher.
 - Needs of students are increasing – 8 newcomers – very low English language proficiency; gaps in schooling; unfamiliar with American schools; social/emotional needs.
 - The number of students in the junior high and high school has more than doubled compared to the previous school year – from 6 to 15; 7 high needs; 26 different teachers.
 - ELL student numbers are increasing – from 21 in 2017-18 to 35 in 2020-21.
 - Anticipate that 24 of the current students will continue to need services for at least the next three years based on their low English proficiency scores; IEP students; it usually takes 3 – 7 years to become fluent.
- To meet ISBE compliance – Hire two full time ESL teachers in addition to the existing staff –
 - Meet required levels of support for students
 - Bring district to state compliance
 - Provide additional ELL staff to meet the needs of growing numbers.

Dr. Hill thanked Ms. Sheehan for her thorough report and her genuine concern for the program and students. The administration will bring a recommendation to the board at a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Hill reported that the district is in need of a .5 FTE psychologist for the following reasons:

- It is part of a larger strategy to be proactive with behavioral interventions.
- It creates a greater capacity to provide analysis to behavioral data that is currently collected.
- There is anticipation of a greater demand for this work due to the impact of families and students struggling through the pandemic.
- Ultimately, earlier intervention could help place less students in alternative

placements.

Mr. Schmidgall asked if there is a way for more efficiencies without adding new positions.

Dr. Hill responded that the administration is always looking for ways to be more efficient in all areas of the district. The budget has been approved for next year with areas of cost savings including not currently replacing a vacated administrative position along with replacing retiree positions with lower salaried employees.

The Board agreed to allow the administration to proceed in hiring a .5 FTE psychologist.

Dr. Smock gave an update on vaccinations. Phones are down at the Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) due to the call volume last week. Vaccinations are scheduled through the third week of February. The TCHD is hoping to implement an online scheduling system soon.

Discussion Item –

First Reading and Discussion of Policy Revisions –

A revision of various board policies from Sections 2, 5, 6, and 7 is being recommended in order to update our policies to current practice related to review and advice from IASB PRESS services and legal counsel. The recommendations for revisions are being presented by the Administration and the Policy Committee to the Board.

NEW Policy 2:265 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure - The policy is created to facilitate implementation of Title IX regulations, which require districts to take a number of actions to respond to reports of sexual harassment in its education program or activity.

Policy 6:310 – High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students – The policy, Legal References, and footnotes are updated in response to 23 Ill.Admin. Code Part 255 (course substitutions for registered apprenticeship programs).

Policies 2:260; 5:10; 5:20; 5:100; 7:10; 7:20; 7:180; 7:185 – The Policies, Legal References, Cross References, and footnotes are updated in response to Title IX regulations and to explicitly direct any sexual harassment complaints involving Title IX to **NEW policy 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure**. The additions relating to the new policy are repeated in these sections: 2:260 – Board of Education – Uniform Grievance Procedure; 5:10 – General Personnel – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20 - Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:100 - Staff Development Program; 7:10 – Students - Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; 7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.

Dr. Hill noted the Title IX Coordinator as required in new policy 2:265 will be Dr. Smock.

Action Item -

Approve Policy Revisions -

After board review of the various policy revisions, the administration recommended that the Board approve and adopt the newly revised policies.

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Schmidgall, that the Board of Education approve policy revisions as presented.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Dr. Cross, second by Mr. Neeley, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve Minutes of the December 8, 2020, Regular Meeting, and the December 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Closed Session.
- Approve Bills and Payroll

	Bills 12-19-20	Bills 1-8-21	Bills 1-15-21	Payroll 12-11-20	Payroll 12-24-20	Payroll 1-8-21
Ed. Fund	\$386,181.27	\$21,054.03	\$349,626.11	\$794,271.29	\$870,843.47	\$692,369.64
Bldg. Fund	105,048.96	1,235.77	525,372.43	46,841.15	51,326.44	42,925.13
Trans. Fund	9,253.57	764.90	23,709.87	17,007.35	23,869.20	4,652.48
IMRF Fund	--	--	--	38,912.77	48,935.37	24,228.95

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried.

Closed Session -

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education enter into closed session for discussion of Personnel, and Negotiations. **(SILCS 120/2 115 ILCS 5/18)**

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board entered closed session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Schmidgall, second by Dr. Cross, that the Board of Education return to regular session.

Roll Call: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The board returned to regular session at 8:12 p.m.

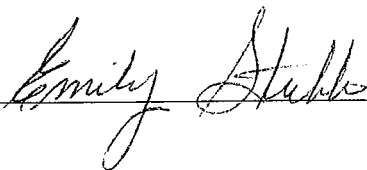
Adjournment -

Motion by Mr. Rinkenberger, second by Mr. Austin, that the meeting be adjourned.

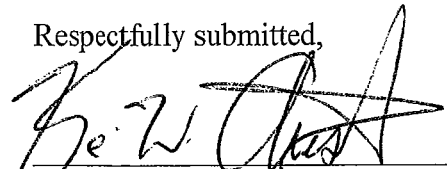
Voice Vote: Yea 7 Nay 0

Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

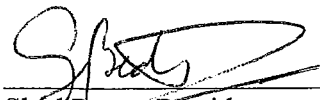
Recorded by,



Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Austin, Secretary



Shad Beaty, President